



For Amarillo City Employees
Volume 4, Issue 12 • December 2014

ACE Employee Newsletter

in this issue ...

Page 2: Motor Cop Goes Above & Beyond

Page 3: Holiday Safety Tips

Page 4: Local Athletes Honored

Page 7: Parking Privileges



Thank You City of Amarillo Employees!

Employee Appreciation Winter Lunch • Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014

Municipal Court Gives Back to Community

by Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Juvenile Services Coordinator

City of Amarillo Municipal Court recently celebrated Municipal Court Week. Court employees celebrated with a variety of activities, including a food drive benefiting High Plains Food Bank. With the help of other City departments, a total of 228 pounds of food was collected!

Educating citizens also was a focus during the week. A table was placed in the lobby of Municipal Court featuring a variety of information promoting traffic safety, gun safety and court information. Delilah Ortega of Amarillo was selected as the winner of a booster seat and others picked up a variety of free items including gun safety locks, pens and pencils, rulers, shoe shine kits and bracelets.

"Most items encouraged drivers not to text or drink and drive and were provided by the Texas Municipal Court Association Education Center, Texas Department of Transportation and Amarillo Police Department," says Court Administrator Victoria Jaramillo Medley. "It isn't just our job to hold drivers accountable. It is important that we provide them with as many tools about the dangers and responsibilities of being behind the wheel as possible."

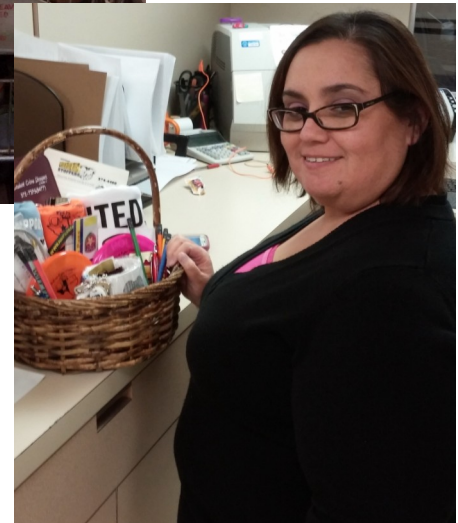
Other activities included a Name that Baby contest. Municipal Court staff submitted baby pictures and attempted to identify the young versions of their coworkers. Kallie Powers knew them best. Diane Baca was the winner of a gift basket provided by the Amarillo Police Department. The week concluded with a potluck luncheon.

"We have a great staff and this was a special time to thank them for their dedication and service," Medley says. Amarillo Municipal Court's efforts in traffic safety will be considered for recognition at the 2015 Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Awards sponsored by Texas Municipal Courts Education Center.



Donna Knight (left), Assistant Court Administrator, donates food for the High Plains Food Bank.

Diane Baca (below) won a drawing for a basket of goodies provided by Amarillo Police Department.



Going "Above and Beyond" Call of Duty

As a City employee, we all understand the "and other duties as assigned" part of job descriptions. But, it's not uncommon to take on tasks even when not assigned—you know, those things we do because it's simply the right thing to do. Case in point—Cpl. Mike Williams. He was on patrol last month when he noticed a motorist in distress. Here are a few of the kind words that the motorist, 81-year-old Kenneth Owen of Amarillo, sent to Officer Williams' superiors.

"I was so impressed by the unselfish actions of Officer Mike Williams last Wednesday, November 26, that I must let you know what happened ... My right front tire completely failed, and I had to pull off 1-40, just west of Western Street, perhaps one-quarter of a mile. I had called my Roadside Assistance, courtesy of USAA Insurance. Although I had given very distinct directions for the location of my

vehicle, the "help" ended-up somewhere east of town (he called telling me he was still half to an hour away). I had been in my car perhaps 15 minutes, when Officer Williams pulled-up on his motorcycle. Seeing my situation, he immediately offered to change my tire. After telling him it had been some time since I had called for "Assistance," he said, "I'm checking back with you in 10 minutes, and if your man is not here, I'll change your tire." He said this with a broad smile and very politely ... Well, he was back some 10 to 15 minutes later. He proceeded to change my tire ... I told him I did not wish to insult him, but, could I buy his meal. He threw up his hands, smiled, and declined. What a nice Patrolman! I needed help and he was there. Being an old Air Force Officer, I'd say, 'Above and beyond the call of duty.' Many thanks to Officer Mike Williams."



Personal Safety Tips for the Holidays

by *Charlie Sanchez, Safety Director*

The holidays are upon us. It is when we should be spending quality time with family and friends, sharing meals together, pumpkin pie, reasons to be thankful, hot chocolate, fuzzy slippers and gifts. Unfortunately, all this joy and happiness can come to a screeching halt as this is also the time in which the “bad guys” start to prey on people. According to a survey by BiiSafe, a mobile-based safety solutions company, respondents aged 18 to 65 revealed their personal safety is a rising concern:

- 73 percent thought that personal safety devices are needed more now than ten years ago.
- 54 percent want to be sure their elderly relatives are doing okay by ensuring they have a way to send an alert message, just in case.

As the weather cools and people are becoming active outdoors during the holiday season, it is wise to brush up on a few important personal safety tips:

- 1.If you are carrying a wallet, keep it in a front pocket. Be sure you carry your purse close to you and the compartments are not left open.
- 2.Never take shortcuts through alleys or unlit parking lots. If walking on a sidewalk near a street,

always walk facing the traffic to avoid being surprised by someone in a vehicle.

3.If you think you are being followed, abruptly switch directions or duck into a fire station, hospital, business or public place and ask for help.

4.In your cell phone contacts,



program “ICE” which stands for “in case of emergency” linking it to a family member or friend – someone you trust the police, firemen or other authorities to call if you are unable to call for yourself.

5.Change your driving and walking routine by planning different routes and take note of “safe places” you could go, should something happen.

6.Avoid leaving belongings, bags or gifts visible in your vehicle; if

possible, store those items in the trunk of the vehicle. Locking car doors may deter criminals, but it will not always protect your property.

7.When approaching your home or vehicle, never fumble in your pocket, purse or bag for keys; have them ready and in your hand prior to reaching the door.

8.Do not leave your vehicle unattended or the car running to warm up. Leaving your keys in the ignition is an invitation for criminal activity and your car to be stolen.

9.When approaching your parked car, look and make sure no one is hiding around or in your vehicle.

10.When on public transportation, cover your jewelry. Turn your stone setting on rings toward the palm side of your hand.

Today’s technology, with smart phones and other mobile devices, provides an enormous amount of new possibilities in the field of personal safety and services – take advantage of it!



**ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON
AND “TAKE SAFETY HOME”**

**ONE TEXT OR
CALL COULD ~~WRECK~~ IT ALL**

Parks and Recreation Honors Local Athletes and More

by Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor

The Athletics Division of the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department will have honored their umpire-in-chief as well as two local athletes through awards from the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF).

Al York, the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department's Umpire-In-Chief and a former City of Amarillo employee, was nominated for the statewide TAAF Contributor's Appreciation Award. Each of the 156 parks and recreation departments that are member cities of TAAF are allowed to nominate a person who is not a permanent employee of their city who makes a significant contribution of time or money for the betterment of their athletic program

for the Contributor's Appreciation Award. Al contributes an enormous amount of his time to help out the Parks and Recreation Department's adult softball program. He is paid for some of his time, but he also volunteers quite a lot of time, as well! He is very dedicated to making the softball program the best program possible. Al was selected by TAAF from all of the nominations from throughout the state of Texas as one of the two co-recipients of this prestigious award, which was presented in September in Waco at the TAAF State Conference.

TAAF also provides impressive plaques for each of their member cities to be able to nominate a Male and Female Athlete of the Year who participated in their athletic

program. The Athletes of the Year are selected by the Parks and Recreation staff. The criteria for selection are that the athletes are among the best players in their sport and that they demonstrate excellent sportsmanship at all times.

Tony Musick was selected as the Amarillo Male Athlete of the Year. He has played softball in the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department adult softball leagues for the past 20 years. Shay Preciado was selected as the Amarillo Female Athlete of Year. Shay has played both volleyball and softball in the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department leagues for approximately a dozen years.

Tony and Shay will be presented their awards at the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Jan. 13.

From the Pantry: Hearty Ham and Potato Soup

Carb. Per serving: 30 g

Prep: 35 minutes

Cook: 15 minutes

2 cups small cauliflower florets (about ½-inch in diameter)

2 tablespoons water

4 ounces extra-lean, low-sodium ham, chopped (¾ cup)

2 teaspoons canola oil

1 cup chopped red sweet peppers (2 small)

2 cloves garlic, minced

8 ounces red potatoes, cut into ½-inch cubes

1¾ cups no-salt-added chicken broth

⅛ to ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper

1 (12-ounce) can evaporated fat-free milk

1 tablespoon cornstarch

½ cup sliced green onions (4)

2 tablespoons light butter or diet margarine

1 tablespoon snipped fresh sage

½ cup shredded reduced-fat sharp cheddar cheese (2 ounces)

1. In a small microwave-safe bowl combine cauliflower and the water. Cover with vented plastic wrap. Microwave on high 3 to 5 minutes or until cauliflower is very tender. Cool slightly; drain. Place cooked cauliflower in a food processor or blender. Cover and process and blend until pureed. Set aside. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan heat 1 teaspoon of the oil over medium-high heat; cook ham in hot oil 3 to 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Using a slotted spoon, remove ham from saucepan; set aside.

2. In the same saucepan, heat the remaining 1 teaspoon oil; cook sweet peppers and garlic in the hot oil 3 minutes. Stir in



Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD

potatoes, broth, and crushed red pepper. Bring to boiling over high heat; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 10 minutes or just until potatoes are tender.

3. In a small bowl, combine evaporated milk and cornstarch, stirring until smooth. Add to saucepan; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Stir in ¼ cup green onions, the margarine, sage, ham, and pureed cauliflower. Cook over medium-low heat 5 minutes to heat through and allow flavors to blend. To serve, top with cheese and remaining ¼ cup green onions.

Per serving: 296 cal., 11 g total fat; (5 g sat. fat), 33 mg chol., 623 mg sodium, 30 g carb. (3 g fiber, 16 g sugars), 20 g pro.

Exchanges: 1 milk; 1 starch; 1.5 lean meat, 1 fat

Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Brandi Perry	AECC	Emergency Comms. Specialist	5
Ella Vinson	AECC	Emergency Comms. Specialist	5
Jesse McWilliams	River Road Water Reclamation	Process Control Technician	5
Bonni Greer	Civilian Personnel	Civilian Investigator	10
Scott Lawrence	Civilian Personnel	Administrative Assistant I	10
Stephen Vian	Civilian Personnel	Administrative Assistant I	10
Jacob Diaz	Fire Marshal	Fire Investigator/Inspector II	10
Johnny Bermea	Police	Police Officer	10
Victor Delfierro	Police	Corporal	10
Faustino Martinez	Police	Police Officer	10
David Murry	Police	Corporal	10
Jeffrey Roden	Police	Corporal	10
David Young	Police	Police Officer	10
Richard Packebush	Solid Waste Collection	Solid Waste Service Tech.	10
Kevin Kilpatrick	Water Distribution	Water Foreperson	10
David Jimenez	Water Transmission	Electrician I	10
Rhonda Votino	Zoo Maintenance	Zoo Curator	10
Mark Wilder	Civic Center Operations	Building Technician II	15
Gilbert Zamarripa	Library	Administrative Assistant I	15
Nadine Wise	Municipal Garage Operations	Administrative Assistant V	15
Christopher Durham	Park Maintenance	Electrician I	15
Karin Lacy	Municipal Court	Administrative Assistant IV	20
John Call	Police	Sergeant	20
Edward Carroll, IV	Police	Corporal	20
Gary Hamilton	Police	Corporal	20
Michael Hancock	Police	Sergeant	20
Fred Harmon, Jr.	Police	Sergeant	20
Raymond Chavez	Animal Management & Welfare	Animal Control Supervisor	25
Ronnie Okerson	Traffic Field Operations	Signal Tech I	25

Firefighters Recognized

"AFD Traditions — Past, Present, Future" was the theme of the Amarillo Fire Department's annual banquet held in October. Capt. Joe Neely (pictured second from left in far right picture) was recognized as the 2014 Fire Officer of the Year. He is joined by (from left) Fire Chief Jeff Greenlee, Fire Deputy Chief Mark Lusk and Deputy Chief Sam Baucom. Beau Hargrave, (pictured second from right in near right picture) was recognized as the 2014 Firefighter of the Year. Congratulations to you both!



Promotions/Transfers for November 2014

Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Isiah Nolan	Communication Tech Asst.	Communications	Building Mechanic III	Facilities
Donna Knight	Court Operations Mgr.	Municipal Court	Asst. Court Administrator	Municipal Court
Tanner Howery	Utility Worker - hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Derrian Pena	Utility Worker - hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Brandon Rodriquez	Utility Worker - hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Tyler Skeen	Utility Worker - hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Gaylan Tucker	Utility Worker	Street	Residential Equip. Op.	Solid Waste Collection
Elisa Yara	Admin. Technician	Animal Mgt. & Welfare	Office Manager	Animal Mgt. & Welfare
Omar Franco	Utility Worker - hrly	Park Maintenance	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance
Jesus Mendoza	Utility Worker - hrly	Park Maintenance	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance
James Milligan	Utility Worker - hrly	Park Maintenance	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance
Michael Saldana	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance
Patrick Tillmon	Utility Worker - hrly	Park Maintenance	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance
Christopher Shelburne	Firefighter	Fire	Fire Driver	Fire
Joshua McBride	Airport Police Officer	Dept. of Aviation	Fire Inspector	Fire Marshall
Austin Preston	RN - hrly	Public Health	Registered Nurse (IMM)	Public Health
Kenneth Twilla	Utility Maintenance Mech.	Surface Water Treatment	E/I Technician	Water Transmission
Paul Kite	Sewer Foreperson	Wastewater Collection	Water Supervisor I	Water Distribution
Kyler Horn	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection	Utility Operator	Wastewater Collection

Prime Parking Winner!



As part of this year's United Way campaign, City employees who office at City Hall and participated as a Fair Share or Super Fair Share giver were part of a drawing. The lucky winner— Jason Sedgwick, a Design Technician I in Director of Utilities—gets to park in City Manager Jarrett Atkinson's parking space, located near the east entry of City Hall, for a month. Way to go, Jason!

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION



In addition to showing appreciation for the nearly 2,300 employees who help keep the wheels of the City turning on a daily basis, we'd also like to thank the senior staff - like Assistant Human Resources Director Alesia Grist—who helped feed us a great meal during the Employee Appreciation Winter Lunch. For more pictures, visit <http://tinyurl.com/COA-12-11-14>.

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Jimmy Maddox	Communications Technician	Communications
Erica Nieto	Building Attendant I	Civic Center
Jeffery Palacio	Building Attendant I	Civic Center
Stephaney Ramirez	Custodian I	Facilities
Shane Warden	Admin. Asst. I	Library
Sarah Shanks	Admin. Asst. I	Library
Samantha Wildman	Library Assistant	Library
Kristi Allen	Library Assistant	Library
Karina Estrada-Gonzalez	Library Assistant	Library
Marcus Navarrette	Instrument Operator	Engineering
Tyler Skeen	Utility Worker	Street
Ricky Wilson	Utility Worker	Street
Paul Chavez	Utility Worker - hrly	Traffic Field Operations
Matthew Meyer	Bus Driver	Transit
Luisa Cunningham	Admin. Asst. I	Parks & Recreation
Brigan Ford	Admin. Asst. - hrly	Parks & Recreation
Abigail Yearber	Admissions/Concessions - hrly	Zoo
Stephanie Foster	Admissions/Concessions - hrly	Zoo
Sheryl Chavez	Fire Inspector	Fire Marshall
Michael Jennings	E/I Technician	Water Production
Tom Garcia	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Ricky Fields	Sewer Foreperson	Wastewater Collection
Gary Foster	Treatment Plant Op. - hrly	Hollywood Road WWT Plant
Michael Goodson	Storm Water Inspector	Laboratory Administration
Efren Lopez	Equipment Operator II	Drainage Utility
Cecilia Araujo	Admin. Asst. V	City Care Clinic

New Year's Resolutions

Lose Weight
 Volunteer to Help Others
 Quit Smoking
 Get a Better Education
 Get a Better Job
 Save Money
 Get Fit
 Eat Healthy Food
 Manage Stress
 Manage Debt
 Take a Trip
 Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
 Drink Less Alcohol

Popular New Year's Resolutions

Source:
www.usa.gov

Congratulations November Retirees!

Beverly Altsman
 Accounting
 33 years

Linda Carroll
 Street
 5 years

David Franke
 IT
 17 years

Find Us On ...



Smile of the Month!



Are You Sharing It?

CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE

City Hall
509 SE 7th Ave.
Room 303

Phone:
(806) 378-3549

Fax:
(806) 378-9394

E-mail:
newsletter@amarillo.gov

PUBLICATION POLICY:

The ACE employee newsletter is distributed by the City Secretary's office monthly through e-mail, print copies and the City's Intranet site. It is designed to help keep you informed of events and accomplishments throughout the organization you serve. If you have ideas for future stories, features or photo opportunities, or to receive this newsletter electronically, contact:
newsletter@amarillo.gov
378-3549

Items must be received no later than the first Friday of each month to make that month's edition.

All items are subject to space availability and edited for appropriateness.

CITY OF AMARILLO

P. O. Box 1971
Amarillo, TX 79105-1971

City's Severe Weather Policy

Hopefully we won't see severe weather like we did with the blizzard in February 2013, but in case of inclement weather, it's always a good idea to be aware of how the City's Severe Weather Policy affects you. The City of Amarillo makes every effort to maintain normal work hours, even during severe weather. In the event City of Amarillo does close offices due to severe weather, only Weather Essential Personnel are expected to report to work or remain at work.

Weather Essential Personnel are employees in the departments of Fire, Police, Amarillo Emergency Communication Center, Emergency Management, Airport, Facilities, Parks Maintenance, Street, Utilities Division and others as assigned.

Division Directors are responsible for designating their Weather Essential Personnel.

When the Amarillo Independent School District closes due to severe weather, the City of Amarillo offices will be closed, with the exception of Weather Essential Personnel. Announcement of the close of City offices will be made through the media and will be posted on the City's website.

Weather Essential Personnel are required to be at their work stations at their regular work times, or as called in or designated by their supervisor when the City is closed due to severe weather.

When the City offices are closed due to severe weather, Non-

Weather Essential Personnel who do not report to work, or who are dismissed early, may use annual leave, personal time off, compensatory leave, or leave without pay for non-exempt employees. Non-exempt employees may work additional hours within the current pay period.

Non-exempt employees cannot make up severe weather leave if those hours would result in the employee exceeding 40 hours of time for that work week. Exempt employees may work additional hours during the work week within the current pay period. If you have any questions about this policy, please check with your supervisor.